(a) whether a number of envoys /Ambassadors etc. is recruited from among politicians/intellectuals etc. without any competitive test etc. for Indian Foreign Services;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of such appointees as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) and (b) Ambassadors/High Commissioners are appointed on the basis of their suitability, relevant experience and eminence. In a few exceptional cases, Ambassadors/High Commissioners have been appointed from outside the Foreign Service for their recognized eminence and experience. The competetive examination is meant for the Foreign Service Office at the time of their recruitment to Service and is not applicable to the non-career Ambassadors/High Commissioners.

(c) At present, seven Missions are headed by Ambassadors/High Commissioners who are non-diplomats or retired civil servants namely, S/Shri L.M. Sing-hvi, Naresh Chandra, Kushok Bakula, D.S. Pannun, M.H. Ansari, Gopal K. Gandhi and Prabhakara Jha.

Harassment of Indians in Saudi Arabia

3505. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMACHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to cases of harassment of Indians in Saudi Arabia;

(b) whether some Indians have been reported missing in Saudi Arabia since 5th February, 1997; and

(c) if so, the step taken to trace them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) Yes, Sir. Government's attention has^ been drawn to some instances of harassment of Indians by their private sponsors arising out of change in sponsorship, nonpayment of contracted salary, change in terms of contract, etc. These complaints are brought to the attention of Embassy of India, Riyadh/Consulate General of India, Jeddah directly by the Indian employees or their well-wishers or through the Ministry.

(b) Six Indians are reportedly missing in Saudi Arabia since 5.2.1997.

In addition, one, Shri B.D. Baliga who was employed as Materials Manager in Eastern Petro Chemicals, Jubail, Saudi Arabia was reported missing as of 5.2.1997. Subsequently, the Embassy learnt that he had been detained a^ the airport for unauthorisedly possessing some documents belonging to his employer. Through the efforts of the Embassy, Shri B.D. Baliga has been released and has returned to India.

(c) Whenever any Indian is reported missing, the matter is promptly taken up with the Saudi Foreign Ministry. Simul taneously, contacts are established with sponsors and local Indians who are known to him.

गुट निरपेक्ष आंदोलन के देशों की समस्याएं

3506. **डा. महेश चन्द्र शर्मा:** क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या 7 अप्रैल, 1997 को आयोजित गुट निरपेक्ष आंदोलन के बारहवें मंत्री स्तरीय सम्मेलन उदघाटन सत्र में दिये गये भाषण में यह कहा गया है, यह खेद का विषय है कि इस महत्वपूर्ण मोड़ पर हमारे ऊपर नये प्रश्न प्रतिबंध और शर्तें आरोपित किये जा रहे हैं

(ख) यदि हां, तो इन प्रश्नों प्रतिबंधों और शर्तों का व्यौरा क्या है,

(ग) ऐसे नये प्रश्न, प्रतिबंध के नाम क्या है, और